I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Signature:

(Michael Boyd)

Docket No.: 251502009000

(PATENT)

DEC 0 1 2003

In re Patent Application of: Pieter HoPOUWELS et al.

Application No.: 09/720,583

Art Unit: 1652

TECH CENTER 1600,300 Examiner: M. Walicka

Filed: December 22, 2000

For: PROPIONIBACTERIUM VECTOR

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated May 29, 2003 (Paper No. 13), for which a response was due on August 29, 2003. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3 month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to November 29, 2003. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. A Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is also filed herewith.

Applicants have given careful consideration to the grounds for rejection. The following amendments and remarks are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

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